Highway grid would depend on the availability of resources in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Sino-Indian border dispute

*127. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh talks are proposed to be held with China to resolve the Sino-Indian border dispute; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The boundary question is a subject of continuing discussion between the Governments of India and China. The India -China Joint Working Group on the boundary question has been established to address this question. Government's efforts are directed at reaching a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question with China, consistent with our national interests.

Private entrepreneurs to construct Highways

*128. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether private entrepreneurs are proposed to be allowed by Govt. to construct highways in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for allowing the private sector to undertake such construction work?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Government had in July, 1985 by a public notice invited proposals from private sector for undertaking the construction of national highways at their cost but no satisfactory response was received. Government are prepared to consider such proposals.

(c) It is to increase the investment in national highways by supplementing the budgetary resources.

U.S. protest against India's action in Srinagar

*129. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a press report in "The Hindustan Times" dated, 4th March, 1990, captioned U.S. flays action in Srinagar which quoted State Department Spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, deploring the violence in Srinagar and urging New Delhi to immediately stop its security forces from shooting unarmed civilians; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any protest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has conveyed to the US Ambassador in New Delhi its concern at the inaccurate statement made by the State Department spokeswoman.

Intelligence branch of Kashmir in Delhi

*130. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an intelligence branch of the Kashmir

Government is presently functioning in the Capital;

(b) if so, what are the functions of this branch;

(c) whether this branch works in collaboration with RAW or the CBI of the Central Government; and

(d) if not, what steps have been taken to oust the intelligence branch staff from the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To collect and disseminate intelligence material of political and public importance. It also deals with matters connected with security of the State VIPs on visit to Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal to oust this unit from the Capital.

US financial assistance to Pakistan

*131. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that U.S.A. propose to give some financial assistance to Pakistan on the basis of their bilateral ties;

(b) whether such assistance would help Pakistan to return to Democracy, encourage its economic development, military modernisation and promote regional stability;

(c) if so, the details of official version on this assistance;

(d) whether Government propose to get an assurence from the U.S.A. to ensure that such assistance shall not be used against neighbouring countries to disturb the regional balances; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor especially in the context that such assistance in the past has been used against neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ostensibly these are some US policy objectives sought to be furthered through financial an military assistance to Pakistan.

(c) The details of the U.S. asksistance to Pakistan for FY 89 90 are as follows:

Development assistance	$43	million
PL 480 Title I	$80	million
Economic support funds (ESF)	$230	million
Foreign Military sales (FMS)	$220	million
IMET	$1	million
Anti narcotics aid	$5.7 million **	
	$589.7 million	

**not to be counted in Adamn's request as this would figure separately in a separate head of account. The above figure was after reducing slightly due to temporary Gramm—Rudmann—Hollings Act sequestration (which makes it mandatory for the U.S. Administration to gradually scale down its budget deficit to reach zero level in FY 1991.

(d) and (e) The US Government maintains that US assistance is not directed against India. It would not be appropriate for Government to comment on the impact of such assistance on other countries neighbouring Pakistan.